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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [GA](#)  
SUBJECT: THE GAMBIA: CREATION OF COMBATANT COMMAND FOR  
AFRICA

REF: STATE 14457

11. (SBU) Ambassador briefed Foreign Affairs Permanent  
Secretary William Joof on the U.S. decision to establish a

SIPDIS  
combatant command for Africa (AFRICOM), drawing from reftel  
points and February 7 Pentagon briefing. Ambassador stressed  
that while U.S. military engagement in Africa was not new,  
AFRICOM's establishment would serve to strengthen  
coordination of our military and other assistance to the  
continent and promote the addressing of African security  
issues from an Africa-centric perspective.

12. (SBU) Joof expressed appreciation for the briefing,  
applauded the U.S. initiative, and indicated that there would  
be further GOTG reaction after he consulted with other  
Gambian officials.

STAFFORD